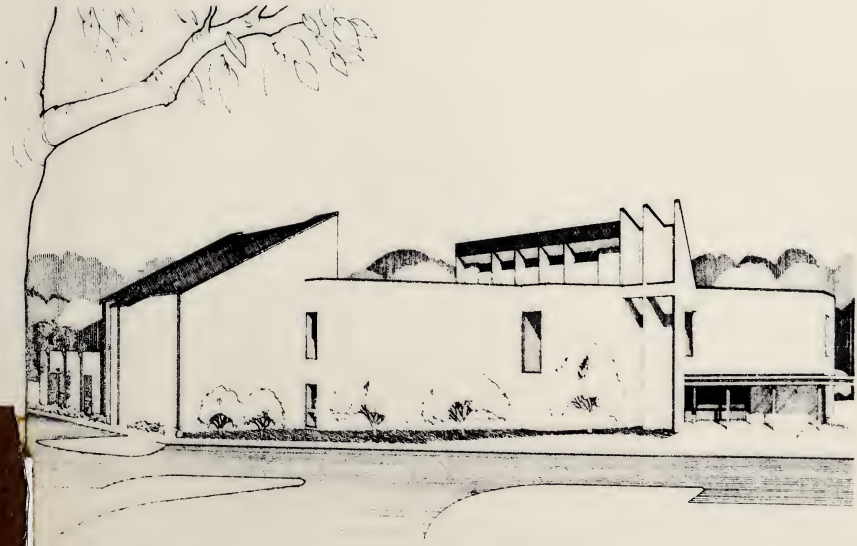
THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

MILLBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

1875 - 1975



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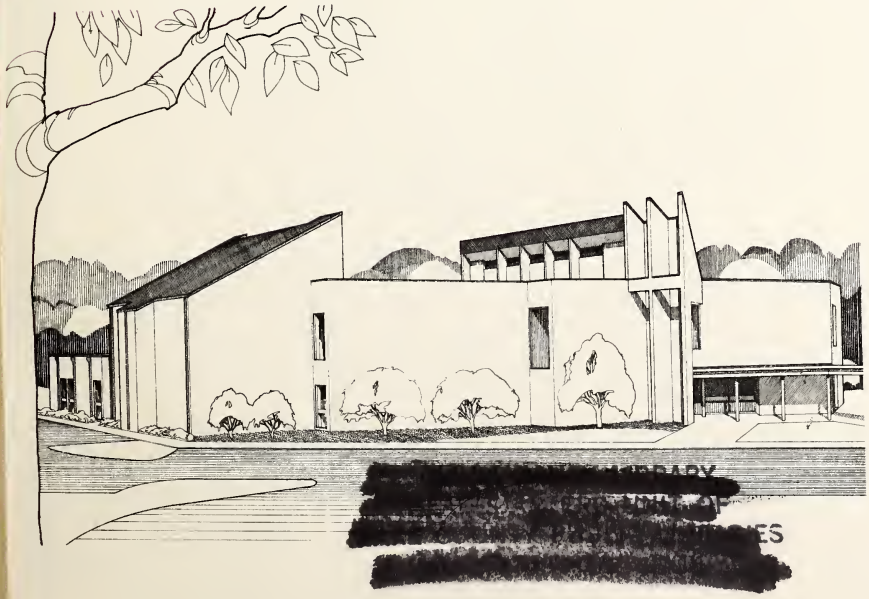

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

MILLBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

The cosmopolitan area now known as North Raleigh was a rural farm area one hundred years ago. Most of the farms were from fifty to several hundred acres, so the families did not live too close to one another. The main crops raised were corn, cotton, wheat and vegetables. Each family owned cows, chickens and hogs. All family members large enough to work had daily chores to keep them busy.

Realizing their complete dependence on God there was a strong spiritual need to gather together His people on the Lord's Day. Even before the church was a building the people assembled at a "brush arbor" for the purpose of corporate worship, seeking God's guidance and thanking Him for the blessings of life.

Because of the great distance between the New Hope and Mt. Vernon Baptist Churches, it was decided a place of worship was needed between the two. Mr. Elias K. Chappell, great-grandfather of Miss Louise Beddingfield, very generously gave the land; and members lovingly donated time and material and built what was called "Midway Baptist Church". The church was located at the corners of Falls of Neuse and Spring Forest Roads.

The first preachers, of course, rode horses from Raleigh or Wake Forest - usually arriving on Friday night. Services were held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, once a month. Later, second and fourth Sundays were designated as preaching Sundays, a practice which continued until 1945. One reason for this schedule was so it would not interfere with services held at Sydney, the nearby Methodist Church which met on first and third Sundays.

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Many of the older members of our church will remember the revival meetings held for a week in late August. The summer farm work was over and harvest not yet begun so the farmers were free to attend all day services with "dinner on the grounds" -which meant long, improvised tables, laden with food - with cooks striving to outdo one another with their culinary efforts. The long hot afternoon services were often trying after the big, noon-day meal. However hard on cooks and farmers, everyone looked forward to the summer meetings of renewal of faith and friendships. Often in the long, cold winter, roads were too bad for horse and buggy travel, and families remained at home for worship.

With the coming of the automobile at the turn of the century, travel became a little easier and, with the expansion of the consolidated school community, it was decided that the church be moved to its present location. In 1922 an acre of land was purchased from Mr. J. B. Green and the church sanctuary was built. Services were held in the school until the building was completed. At that time Millbrook Community consisted of a post office, a store, a cotton gin, and several homes near by the school.

PASTORS

The first preachers came from Raleigh or Wake Forest College - driving a horse and buggy and some times walking from Wake Forest. These men usually arrived on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning and visited in the homes of members. There was very little money to pay, but they always carried back farm produce - country hams, chickens, eggs and canned jellies to fill their own pantries.

The first pastor at the new Millbrook location was the Reverend K. E. Bryan. However, during the first year the Reverend J. S. Farmer, editor of the Biblical Recorder at that time, was called to be the pastor, and served until his death fourteen years later. The Farmers built a home in the area and were very active in community life until his death. During his ministry two Sunday School classrooms were added.

In 1938 Dr. J. Allen Easley was called as pastor. Christian life and education were greatly enriched during this ministry. Dr. Easley continued teaching at Wake Forest College and moved with the college to Winston-Salem, where he now resides.

The Reverend Edwin R. Andrews was the first pastor to serve the church full-time - that is, preaching each Sunday. Even at this time (1945) the church was not financially able to pay a "living salary", so the Reverend Andrews supplemented his salary by teaching in the local school. The O. A. Norwoods generously furnished a house for the church's pastor.

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The Reverend Robert L. Newton was called to preach in 1948. The church began to feel a real need for growth during this period. The C. M. Billings family gave a corner lot nearby the church to build a parsonage. This was built and the Newtons moved in during the third year of his ministry. Sunday School classrooms, a kitchen and two restrooms were added. Also an additional one and one-half acres of land were purchased from the J. B. Greens, as future needs were already being felt. The Newtons served the church and community for ten years and left to become Chaplain of the Chapel and Bible teacher at Campbell College, Buies Creek, North Carolina.

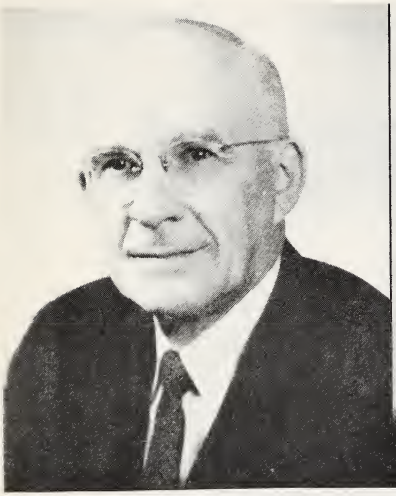
The Reverend Ray K. Hodge followed the Reverend Newton in March, 1958, and served until June, 1960. Although his ministry was short, it was very meaningful. Committees were formed during this time to begin plans for an educational building. The first printing of the "Messenger" began to inform our membership.

The Reverend Jack L. Bullard began his ministry on September 4, 1960. The new educational building was completed with his guidance, and dedicated on October 15, 1961. The sanctuary was renovated and air-conditioned and the kitchen improved. The kindergarten and the family night supper began. Also during this period three and one-half acres of land were purchased from the Green estate.

Through the years Raleigh had pushed northward with business establishments, lovely new home areas, large apartments and a church bursting at the seams. These were the conditions with the coming of the Reverend William Harling Puckett, Jr., in August, 1968. Much has been accomplished since that time - a beautiful new building was dedicated October 21, 1973. Many

new services have been added to the spiritual growth of the church. The Reverend M. Wayne Brown became the first full-time Associate Minister in September, 1969. With his leadership the youth of the church and the music program have become very important ministries. Dr. Colin Harris became interim director of curriculum and education in August, 1974. The kindergarten, with an enrollment of 225 this year, has been recognized as one of the best in Wake County under the leadership of Mrs. Jean Morris.

Although the rural farm area of a hundred years ago has been swallowed up in progress, the spirit of the church remains the same. With the strong, spiritual leadership of Dr. Puckett and his helpers many people continue to find strength for the times and a renewed faith as often as a worship service is attended. We pray God that it will continue to be so.

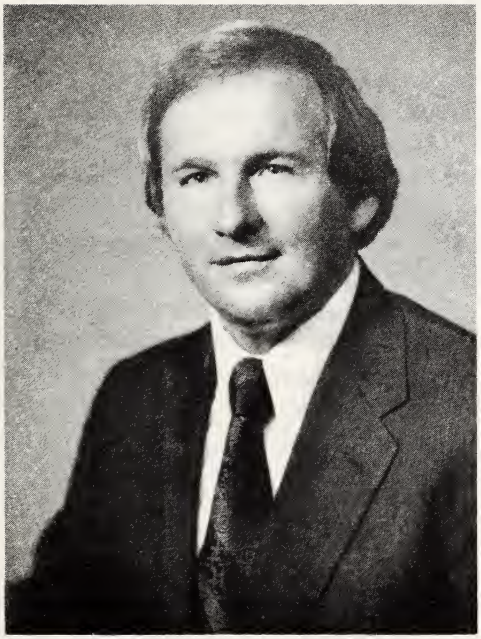


Dr. Easley

Dr. Newton

Rev. Hodge

Rev. Bullard



Dr. Puckett

From the early years of this church the missionary spirit has been strongly felt.

Mrs. Mary Beddingfield tells that she and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Eugene Beddingfield, met at a church near Bayleaf in 1905 with Miss Fannie Heck and others to form a missionary society. At first meetings were held after services while the men waited outside. After the Farmers moved into the community the missionary ties were strengthened. Mrs. Farmer, having been a foreign missionary to Japan for ten years was interested in every phase of mission work. Their home was open to all visiting missionaries on furlough; therefore, the church had many personal contacts with people that others were only reading about.

It is very significant that our library is called the "Mary B. Green Library". In the early years of the missionary society Mrs. Green carried an arm load of books to every meeting. The books were purchased from a five cent donation from each member. In 1958 a room was given and Millbrook Baptist Church had its first library, which was lovingly dedicated to Mary B. Green in 1970, and continues to carry her name and serves a wonderful ministry in the new building.

-QUOTES-

"I remember at Communion a glass of wine was passed, and everyone drank from the same glass."

-Charlotte Didawick

"Sometimes we'd get stuck and have to get out of the carriage and push on what is now Millbrook Road."

-Macie Misskelley

"I remember a young preacher driving his car from Wake Forest and being caught for speeding on Wake Forest Road. He was going 30 miles per hour and the law was 25 miles per hour.

-Esther H. Caudle

"I have been told that my grandfather went to Midway on a hot, sunny day to pray for rain. When asked by my grandmother why he was carrying his umbrella, he told her he expected to come home in the rain - and he did!"

-Elma Haithcock

A tiny match flame into

A big light will glow.

From the hearts of a few

Inspired men -

Our spiritual life did grow.

And now in this place a

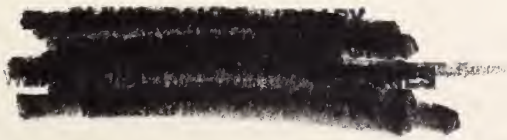
Beacon lights the way,

Take up your torch, follow

and pray.

Elva Ferrell

October, 1975



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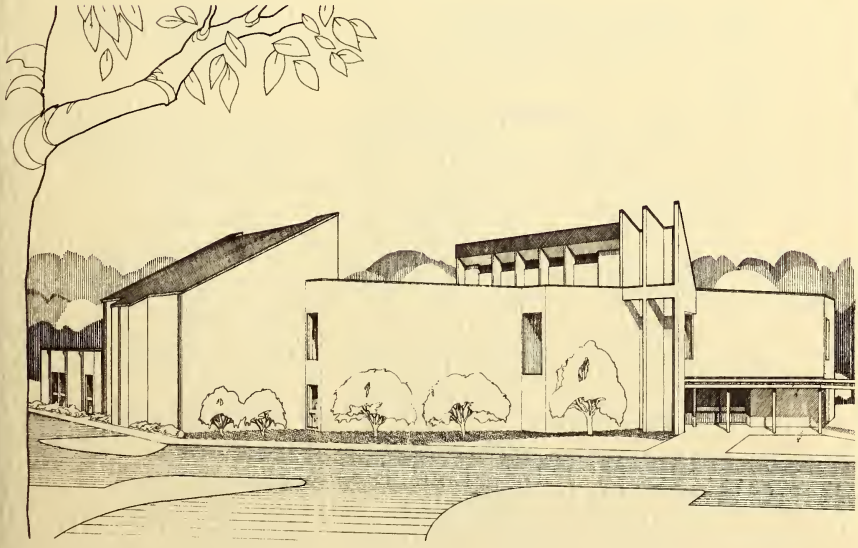

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

October 5, 1975

MORNING WORSHIP ELEVEN O'CLOCK

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Mr. Dan Southern
Organist

We welcome you to Millbrook Baptist Church. We sincerely hope that you will find an experience of worship in these moments with us. The Organ Prelude is provided as a time of private prayer and meditation, a time for preparation and beginning worship.

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*THE HYMN 152 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

*THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
Dr. Brown

*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE WELCOME OF GUESTS AND RECOGNITIONS

THE WORSHIP IN MUSIC Adult Choir
"Sacred and Holy Is This Place"

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 84

Minister: How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
People: My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord;
Minister: My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
People: Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee,
Minister: In whose heart are the highways to Zion.
People: They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Minister: O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Minister: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

People: For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

Minister: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

People: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee!

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING - Romans 12:1-18

THE PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Dr. Puckett

*THE HYMN 43 "Immortal, Invisible"

THE OFFERTORY

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE DOXOLOGY

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE ANTHEM

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Adult Choir

THE MESSAGES

"On Being One Hundred Years Old"

Dr. Robert Newton

The Reverend Jack Bullard

*THE HYMN OF INVITATION 380

"The Church's One Foundation"

*THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

THE POSTLUDE

*The congregation will please stand.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

PRELUDE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"God Is Our Refuge" Adult Choir

INVOCATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE 54 "God Of Our Fathers"

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 4:1-16

PRAYER Dr. Puckett

LITANY OF DEDICATION

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Minister: To the glory of Almighty God our Father, Maker of heaven and earth, Author and Giver of life, who in the person of Jesus Christ has made known to us the patience and power of redemptive love, and who by His Spirit is ever seeking to bring light into our darkness.

People: In humble gratitude for His good gifts, we dedicate ourselves.

Minister: For the building up of the body of Christ to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

People: We dedicate ourselves and all that we are and have.

Minister: For the furtherance of the worldwide program of the Christ, for the encouragement of missionary endeavors at

home and abroad, for evangelism and education, for the promotion of social righteousness and building of human brotherhood.

People: As a means of expressing our faith, we dedicate ourselves.

Minister: To the promotion of brotherhood and reconciliation among all peoples in our community and in the entire world and to the building of the bonds of peace,

People: As an expression of our acceptance and love for all men, we dedicate ourselves.

Minister: To the ministry of service to which God hast called us, through the Christ, "To preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted; to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

People: As the people of God, we give ourselves to Him in faithfulness, in holiness and in love.

Minister and People:

We now, the people of this congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE WORSHIP IN MUSIC

THE MESSAGE The Reverend Ray K. Hodge

*HYMN 358 "A Charge To Keep"

*THE BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

THE POSTLUDE

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by the Golden Circle Class to the Glory of God and for their ninth birthday.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Dr. M. Wayne Brown has been Associate Minister of Millbrook Baptist Church since September, 1969.

The Reverend Jack Bullard served as Pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church from September, 1960 - March, 1968. Currently Mr. Bullard is Director of the Human Relations Council for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Reverend Ray K. Hodge served as Pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church from March, 1958 — June, 1960. Mr. Hodge currently serves as Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Kinston, North Carolina.

Dr. Robert L. Newton is Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Dr. Newton served as Pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church from 1948 - 1958.

Dr. William H. Puckett, Jr. has been Pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church since August, 1968.